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Multiple
Use
Management . . .

forest
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE • PA-770

September 1966

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The National Forest symbol, the Multiple Use Tree enclosed by a ring bearing the legend *National Forests—Lands of Many Uses*, is a hallmark of service to a growing America.

Each of the tree's oval branches stands for a renewable resource of the forest—water, timber, forage, wildlife, recreation—and the products and services flowing from them. The trunk represents the Nation and its people who benefit from forest resources.

The line inscribing the tree establishes the interrelation and interdependence of resources and people. Its continuity symbolizes multiple use management by indicating that the resources are developed and managed in planned combinations to provide optimum benefits to the American people.

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST LANDS

Why Multiple Use?

The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in keeping with its traditional objective of serving the greatest good of the greatest number of people in the long run, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest land resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation.

There is a growing need for these and related forest products and services by our dynamic society, characterized as it is by a population explosion, a higher standard of living, and an ever-increasing mobility.

As our knowledge of man and his environment becomes greater, deeper, and more unified, and as we develop more capable automated machines for sorting and storing this knowledge for easy reference, the multiple use principles so universal in natural processes are being applied more effectively to produce increasing quantities of the commodities and amenities demanded by a growing society on the move.

With professional multiple use planning and its skillful execution on the ground, we can have more high-quality air, water, timber, wildlife and fish, forage, open space, scenic beauty, and outdoor recreation from our forest lands—now and in the future.

What Is Multiple Use?

As stated in the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, multiple use means "the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use

to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output."

The act defines sustained yield as the "achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land." The act also states that the establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes of the act.

Multiple use management of forest land resources—wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation—is extremely complex. These resources are interdependent to a great extent, and often interact. What happens to one resource can have specific, predictable effects on others, harmful or beneficial. Good forest land management not only ensures a supply of clear water for industrial and domestic use, but also may enhance forest recreational opportunities such as swimming and fishing. Both tree planting and tree harvesting can be done in such a manner as to improve habitat for wildlife.

Multiple use management is applied on-the-ground to specific areas of land. Renewable forest land resources always occur *in combination*, although the amount, type, and quality of the resources may vary from area to area. The needs of people also may vary from area to area.

In determining the most desirable combination of uses on a particular area of land at a particular time, not

only the character of the land and the development potential of its resources but also local, regional, and national needs must be considered. As needs change, the combination of uses may be varied to provide more or less wood, water, wildlife, forage, or recreation. Effective multiple use management requires that planning be a continuing process rather than a one-time static solution.

How Does Multiple Use Benefit You?

Under multiple use management, renewable forest and grassland resources yield products and services with both commodity and amenity values. Wood, water, wildlife, forage, and recreation have inherent commodity values essential to the Nation's economic well-being. Their development can produce additional economic benefits by creating jobs and stimulating the growth of local communities and industry. For example, a recreation enterprise may employ local labor in the development of facilities and construction of access roads, and, when completed, will attract more tourist dollars to an area; a logging operation will create many jobs in the woods as well as in sawmills and other wood-using industries.

In multiple use planning, amenity as well as commodity values affect the degree of emphasis placed on each resource in determining the best combination of uses. Amenity values such as fresh air, open space, and pleasant surroundings are receiving more consideration in today's urban society and will undoubtedly receive still more in tomorrow's. Public awareness of these values is shown by greater public cooperation in fire and litter control, and by increased interest in how the management of resources in planned combinations can safeguard for us the natural beauty so vital to our sense of well-being as individuals and as a nation.

The growing number of factors to be considered makes multiple use planning and management increasingly complex—as well as increasingly necessary if our Nation's forest and grassland resources are to continue to yield an optimum level of high-quality products and services without harming the land's ability to produce, now and in the future.

The following text accompanies the chart.

The management of lands in the National Forest System to achieve the traditional *objective* of serving the greatest good of the greatest number of people in the long run is carried out under *laws, regulations, and policies*.

Both *administration* and *research* contribute to multiple use and sustained yield management of these lands. At national, regional, and local administrative levels, *inventories* are made of (1) present and potential condition and use of resources and (2) present and future needs of people. Research findings help to ensure accurate and up-to-date inventories.

At each administrative level, a *multiple use analysis* of these inventories is made for specific areas of land. Broad policy and guidelines are established for the entire National Forest System; more specific management direction and coordinating requirements, in keeping with the broad policy and guidelines, are spelled out in Regional Multiple Use Management Guides; and local multiple use management decisions are spelled out in Ranger District Multiple Use Plans.

Functional *planning* for the management of individual resources and facilitating activities is in accordance with the management decisions set forth in the Ranger District Multiple Use Plans.

Action plans are developed to ensure that specific projects, such as timber sales and recreation site development, will be carried out in a manner that will meet the approved multiple use coordinating requirements. On-the-ground multiple use surveys are made to develop the details of the coordination in each action plan, and to establish the plan's feasibility in practice.

Supervised *action programs*, or on-the-ground resource management activities, are carried out by Forest Rangers in accordance with the action plans.

Feedback from *Forest Service inspections, public reaction*, and day-to-day management experiences is used at all administrative levels to evaluate the effectiveness of the action programs. Pertinent research findings and management techniques are incorporated as they become available. In this manner, Forest Service multiple use management of forest land resources remains dynamic, ever responsive to the changing needs of people.

Planning for Multiple Use Management on the National Forests



